

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Kazakh SSR)

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT City of Chimkent

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Chimkent (N42-18, E69-36); capital of Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast, was divided into three distinct sections: the Novyy Gorod, the Staryy Gorod, and Zelënaya Balka.

- a. The Novyy Gorod occupied the largest part of the city proper; it extended three or four kilometers to the east of Sovetskaya ulitsa, which was the main street of the city. Several perpendicular streets crossed Sovetskaya ulitsa, extending from Gorkogo ulitsa on the west, to the grain fields in the eastern outskirts of the city. There were approximately ten streets which crossed Sovetskaya ulitsa; the major ones were Melnichnaya, Turkestanskaya, Kregera, Poltoratskogo, and Tolstogo. The streets adjacent to Sovetskaya ulitsa were stone-surfaced and the sidewalks were of sandstone and brick; the sewerage system was in working order and the entire area had a very clean appearance. Picturesque birch and maple trees, vineyards, and frontages with apricot and apple orchards gave the general impression of a garden city. The Novyy Gorod had primitive electric lanterns on wooden pillars, at one block intervals in the area adjacent to Sovetskaya ulitsa; in the outskirts they appeared rather infrequently. The buildings on the right side of Sovetskaya ulitsa were even-numbered, and the odd-numbered buildings were on the left side. The numbers ran from one to about sixty, beginning at the corner of Bazarnaya ulitsa to the corner of ulitsa Tolstogo, which is the northernmost perpendicular. The branches of Sovetskaya ulitsa in Novyy Gorod had similar numbering systems. Most of the numbers began at the western limit of the street, and reached about one hundred to one-hundred-fifty at the eastern limits. The city lacked a clear and homogeneous marking system. Some house numbers were posted on pillars, and others were on fences or the house entrances. Houses erected after the establishment of the numbering system had "a", "b", and "v" added to the street number. Private homes in the area were three- or four-room houses, predominantly of fireproof, brick-clay construction.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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- b. The Staryy Gorod occupied a considerable part of the city proper; it extended for about two or three kilometers to the west and southwest of Gorkogo and Sovetskaya ulitsy. This section gave the general impression of a dirty Moslem town, lacking the mosques and street patterns of the Middle East. There were some apricot orchards and vineyards in the backyards, as well as some tomato, onion, and pumpkin plots in the frontages of the Uzbek dwellings. The Staryy Gorod had a very diversified numbering pattern, which was very confusing and difficult to follow. The area lacked lighting facilities, and there were no apartment houses or government buildings. The majority of the private homes in Staryy Gorod were individually-owned and occupied kibitkas. They were not very durable, and were highly inflammable. During the wet season the houses disintegrated rapidly because of thawing, and partial decay of the roofing, which was predominantly a straw-lime combination. The kibitkas ranged from a two-room to a five- or six-room dwelling; their chief characteristics were their clumsy shape and the small size of the windows.
- c. The Zel'naya Balka occupied several square kilometers between the airbase and the railroad station. It was a district of dirt and poverty, consisting of one-story slums, abandoned houses, and unpaved streets. The general impression was one of a very primitive, rural community. The section was inhabited by petty railroad officials, poor Uzbeks, and criminals. There were no lighting facilities, and the street-numbering system was very confusing and difficult to follow. There were no stores or government buildings in the Zel'naya Balka. Private homes in the area were earth huts and semi-kibitkas, but with larger windows and a less primitive design. There were a few houses similar to the ones in the Novyy Gorod, but they were dirty in appearance and were in a state of disintegration and decomposition.

Principal Streets in Chimkent

- 2. The following streets were the principal ones in Chimkent, forming the cultural, market, and transportation centers of the city:
 - a. Sovetskaya ulitsa. Most of the government buildings, stores, and offices were on this street. It was the recreational and cultural center of the city, being the location of Chimkent's schools, recreation spots, public eating places, movies, and theaters. The street bordered on the Park of Culture and Pioneer Park. Pedestrian traffic was heavier on this street than on the other streets, with the exception of Bazarnaya ulitsa.
 - b. Bazarnaya ulitsa. The two major markets, or bazaars, were located on this street, which was the commercial center of Chimkent. It was dotted with variety stores, eating places, barber shops, shoe-repair stands, beverage kiosks, photo studios, and tailor shops.
 - c. Vokzalnaya ulitsa. This street was the city's transportation center. Railroad and truck-repair shops, a railroad hospital and polyclinic, as well as a temporary dormitory for travelers were located on Vokzalnaya ulitsa.

Inhabitants of Chimkent

- 3. The population and ethnic composition of Chimkent varied considerably in the years 1941 and 1945 and can be broken down as follows:
 - a. The population of Chimkent increased from 21,018 inhabitants in 1926 to 74,185 in 1939. The average number of inhabitants during the years 1941-1944 was between 150,000 and 175,000. Since 1945 the population has decreased sharply as a result of the re-evacuation of persons from the Ukrainian SSR and the Moscow and Leningrad areas, as well as the repatriation of Polish citizens.

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b. Estimated ethnic composition during the 1941-1944 period:¹

Russian and Ukrainian permanent residents	15%
Russians (evacuated)	15%
Russian Jews	25%
Polish Jews	10%
Uzbeks	25%
Kazakhs	6%
Bukhara Jews	2%
Others (Poles, Armenians, Koreans, Tartars)	2%

c. Estimated ethnic composition in 1945 (after re-evacuation):

Uzbeks	43%
Russian and Ukrainian permanent residents	33%
Kazakhs	13%
Bukhara Jews	4%
Soviet government personnel, temporarily stationed in Chimkent	2%
Russian Jews	1%
Chechens ²	1%
Others (Armenians, Koreans, Tartars)	3%

Habits and Customs

4. The habits and customs of the people of Chimkent varied considerably. The following were the customs of the various minority groups, which included those inhabitants of Chimkent who were not Russians, Ukrainians, or Russian Jews:

- a. The Uzbeks spoke both Uzbek and Oriental Russian and were illiterate. Trachoma and brucellosis were common among the Uzbeks, whose general state of health was poor. Their diet consisted mainly of macaroni, onions and mutton, rice, wheat pancakes, sour milk, and a cheap variety of domestic tea. Most men wore a hat with embroidery, and carried a short hunting knife. Women wore scarfs with embroidery, and high-heeled, leather boots. The Uzbeks were unfriendly toward the Russians and Kazakhs; they were hostile to the idea of intermarriage with Russians or Kazakhs, and they refused to converse in Russian with other natives who understood their language. Uzbeks were reluctant to rent rooms to Jewish evacuees, and were quite contemptuous of Bukhara Jews. Outside of their regular employment, Uzbeks spent their time gardening and preserving fruits, as well as marketing home-made dairy products. They were fond of house parties, which were held on such occasions as weddings, funerals, or the return of a son from military service. At these parties the men sat on the floor while eating, and the women, who did not share the meal, served water, tea, and sweets. The party generally lasted all night, and the sole form of entertainment was singing native songs, with the music provided by home-made instruments.
- b. The Kazakhs spoke both Kazakh and Russian, and their literacy level was fairly high. They worked in government, party, and municipal institutions. The typical Kazakh attire consisted of a long, quilted, cotton robe and a fur cap, which was worn all year round. Their diet consisted mainly of wheat pancakes with pepper and onions, cheese, and a Caucasian meat dish called shashlyk. The Kazakhs were friendly with the Russians, but disliked the Jews. They were quite contemptuous of the Uzbeks and Bukhara Jews. The urban Kazakhs tended to assume the customs and habits of the Russians and were largely not native to Chimkent, but from Alma Ata (N43-12, E76-57), Kzyl Orda (N44-48, E65-28), and North Kazakhstan. Some of them, however, maintained permanent homes with the idea of settling in Chimkent for a lifetime. They began to arrive in the city in the middle Thirties, following the promotion of Kazakhstan to the status of an SSR and the incorporation

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of Chirchik Oblast (sic) in the republic. The rural or semi-nomadic Kazakhs who lived in the city with young members of their families preserved some of their old customs despite the opposition of the "civilized" generation. Since most of the rural or "non-civilized" Kazakhs belonged to the old-age group, much of their time was spent in lounging; women busied themselves with embroidery, and the men with profiteering and black market activity.

- c. The Bukhara Jews resembled the Uzbeks, and were employed as barbers, shoemakers, watchmakers, and tailors. They wore embroidered, religious hats, and were fond of jewelry. They observed a kosher diet, and abstained from all forms of recreation or entertainment. They were an extremely poor and dirty group. Bukhara Jews feared both the Russians and Kazakhs; they were friendly toward, but somewhat fearful of, the Uzbeks. Toward European Jews, they were extremely friendly.
- d. The Koreans and Chinese had foreigner's residence permits but were not permitted to travel without special permits issued by the Foreign Desk of the Oblast Militia.
- e. Poles and Polish Jews were subject to the changing regulations imposed throughout the USSR at various stages of Soviet-Polish diplomatic relations.

Wages and Working Conditions

- 5. The following wages were typical of several working classes in Chirchik:
 - a. A skilled worker in the lead refinery earned 1900 rubles per month, and a physician in one of the polyclinics charged four rubles per hour. A high school teacher earned only 800 rubles per month, while a municipal worker, such as a secretary, earned 1,000 rubles per month.
 - b. The individual worker was obliged to obtain official release from one job before taking a new one.

Prices during the 1942-1945 period

- 6. a. Prices were fixed by the law of supply and demand during the 1942-45 period. There were no restrictions regulating commercial transactions, and barter was common and unrestricted. Black marketeering was indulged in by practically the entire population, as the authorities took no measures to combat the practice.
- b. Virtually everything was rationed during the period 1942-45.³ Certain varieties of drugs, books, vodka, dry fruits, and such household items as ashtrays and mirrors were available at the municipal stores and could be obtained without coupons. Municipal checkers examined the quality of food, and imposed fines as well as confiscated the goods for failure to meet standard specifications.

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Living quarters

7. The following is a description of typical living quarters of the various classes in Chimkent:
- a. Skilled factory workers, Russian and Ukrainian, lived in two-, three-, or four-room houses, which had primitive, old furniture. These houses had neither bathrooms nor modern kitchen facilities. Pictures of relatives and school diplomas were hung on the walls.
 - b. Unskilled factory workers, Uzbeks, lived in two- or three-room kibitkas with no furniture, except large beds designed for the accommodation of from three to six people. Carpets adorned the "dining-room". Houses were dirty and infested with mosquitoes and other insects.
 - c. Foremen, Russian and Ukrainian, lived in houses similar to the ones of the skilled factory workers, with the possibility of better furniture, such as a bed with nickel ornamentation, a table, or a soft couch.
 - d. Teachers, Russian and urban Kazakh, likewise lived in houses similar to the ones of the skilled workers, with a few book shelves, an armchair, and a school desk. Generally teachers' homes were cleaner than others.
 - e. Physicians, usually Russian, lived in five- or six-room houses with old furniture of the tsarist period, including an old piano. One room was always designated as a dining-room, and another as a living-room (gostinaya). There were heavy curtains on the windows, and few insects. There was also a bathroom of primitive design.
 - f. A Russian engineer living at the dormitory at the cotton factory had one room and a small kitchen. The furniture was cheap and consisted of a couch, table, three chairs, a small desk, and pictures of Party leaders.
 - g. Minor government employees, Russian, lived in homes similar to the ones of skilled factory workers or foremen (a or c).
 - h. Minor government employees, Kazakh, lived in a three- or four-room semi-kibitka. There were carpets and furniture, such as a bed with nickel ornamentation, a table, or a soft couch. Pictures of Party leaders adorned the walls. One room was designated for old folks, rural Kazakhs; this room had no furniture, was dirty, and infested with mosquitoes and other insects.

Buildings in the Chimkent Area

8. The following is a description of several factory buildings not included in the legend, as source did not indicate their locations on the map of Chimkent:
- a. A lead refinery (svintsovy zavod) was located several kilometers west-southwest of the city proper, and had a separate railroad station; it was considered as an independent urban development. The lead was mined from zinc and lead deposits of Achisay and Baydzhansay, located in Suzakskiy Rayon, Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast. Access to the lead refinery was not restricted, but the plant premises were closely guarded by militia patrols. Tanks and armored cars were manufactured in the plant during World War II.
 - b. Grain assembling, processing, and distribution units. Several elevators and flour mills were located in Staryy Gorod.
 - c. A candy manufacturing shop was located in Chimkent; it served local markets.
 - d. A junk assembling and processing shop was another local industry, which produced odd household items of inferior quality.

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Schools and Hospitals

9. The following is a brief description of the schools and hospitals in Chimkent, which are not included in the legend. [REDACTED]

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- a. Chimkent had several vocational and trade schools, including a School of Accountancy for Veterans, a Trade School for the Blind, a Chauffeurs' School, and the factory trade schools.
- b. The city had three hospitals. The Municipal Hospital was located in Kregera ulitsa, and the Railroad (Zheleznodorozhnyy) Hospital was located at the lead refinery. There was a Municipal Polyclinic on Sovetskaya ulitsa opposite the post office, and a Railroad Polyclinic on Vokzalnaya ulitsa. Chimkent also had dispensaries for treating tuberculosis, brucellosis, malaria, and venereal diseases.

Farmers in the Chimkent Area

10. The farmers may be classified into the following groups:
- a. Uzbeks, who came from neighboring kolkhozy, supplied fresh and dry fruits, wheat, spices, and vegetables, such as tomatoes, onions, and pumpkins.
- b. Kazakhs, who came from remote kolkhozy and mountain villages, supplied the markets with mutton, mutton fat, coarse wheat and barley cereals, and cheese.
- c. Russians and Ukrainians, who came from neighboring kolkhozy, supplied beef, pork, dairy products, vegetables, and grain.
11. The produce of the various farms in the surrounding area was brought into one of the three major markets in Chimkent. These markets or bazaars were managed by the City Soviet, and small dues were collected from the kolkhozy maintaining permanent stands.
12. The power supply in Chimkent was furnished by a steam plant based on Lenger lignite, with a capacity below 100,000 kw. The electric current was insufficient and was switched off frequently. The use of electrical heaters, stoves, burners, and irons was illegal. Meters were set up in every household; since the current was only available for two to five hours per day, with frequent "dark" days, the meters served no practical purpose as restrictive devices.
13. There was one broadcasting station in Chimkent which served the primitive, local, receiving sets. There were very few receiving sets capable of bringing in foreign broadcasts clearly. In 1944 receiving sets capable of bringing in foreign broadcasts, which had been seized some time previously, were returned to their owners, and no restrictions were imposed. Foreign broadcasts were received, though not too clearly, from Tehran, Karachi, and Munich. Chimkent also has a daily newspaper in the Russian language, called Pravda Yuzhnogo Kazakhstana. ILLEGIB

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Legend to the map of Chimkent

1. Apartment house on Sovetskaya Street; a three-story, red brick building.
2. Teachers' Institute (Uchitelskiy Institute) on Sovetskaya Street; the Technological Institute (38) and the Industrial Technical School (39) were located in this same three-story building. This institute was a two-year teachers' college, with very low educational standards; it occupied one wing of the building.
3. City Soviet, on Sovetskaya Street between Kregera and Turkestanskaya ulitsy.
4. MVD and MGB headquarters, a three-story, red-brick, fireproof building on the northeast corner of Sovetskaya and Poltoratskogo ulitsy. It had a prison used for political criminals; there was one guarded entrance and a prison garden extending about one-quarter of the block along Sovetskaya ulitsa. The garden was protected by a ten-or twelve-foot-high wall with barbed wire on top.
5. Oblast Executive Committee, a three-story building on Sovetskaya Street between Kregera and Turkestanskaya streets.
6. Post office, a three-story building.
7. Ten Year School i/n Lenin, a three-story building.
8. Agricultural Technical School, a two-story building.
9. Pioneer House, a two-story building.
10. Oblast Militia, a one-story building on the northeast corner of Sovetskaya and Kregera ulitsy; it was a white brick, fireproof building with one guarded entrance on Kregera Street.
11. State Bank, a one-story red, fireproof building with slate roofing.
12. Medical Technical School, a one-story red, fireproof building with slate roofing.
13. Dormitories of the cotton factory, two-story, white brick buildings; they made a dirty appearance.
14. Monument, dedicated to the Bolshevik Fighters; it was located at the junction of Sovetskaya and Bazarnaya ulitsy, and was surrounded by a small square.
15. Park of Culture and Rest, occupied about one or one-and-a-half square kilometers between Sovetskaya ulitsa and its west parallel. It was the recreation center of the city, containing an open movie house, an open dance hall, a summer theater, and numerous benches. The park was open from April to November; admission tickets were 1 1/2 rubles for adults, and 75 kopeks for children. Patrol squads were very active, with frequent document checks at the gates, and occasional spot checks at the entrances of the summer theater and movie house.
16. Pioneer Park, which occupied about one or one-and-a-half square kilometers between Sovetskaya ulitsa and its east parallel. It was the recreation center for children, containing a small summer theater for amateur performances. Patrol squads were occasionally active here.
17. Bath House.

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18. Peoples' Court, at the southwest corner of Sovetskaya and Bazarnaya ulitsy; the Civil Registry Office (ZAGS) was also located in this building.
19. City Section of Popular Education on Kregera ulitsa adjacent to the oblast militia building (10).
20. Theater. The Kazakh Theater had a permanent troupe of actors, and offered daily performances during the summer season. The seating capacity was about 800. Among the visiting troupes during the 1942-45 period were the Kazakh Opera of Alma Ata, the Mossovet Theater of Moscow, the Kiev Operetta, and the Jewish Theater of Birobidzhan.
21. Prison of the oblast militia was on Kregera ulitsa, one block east of Sovetskaya ulitsa. It was surrounded by a wall with barbed wire on top and had one entrance from a small alley parallel to Sovetskaya ulitsa. The prison had a small garden, a bath, and an infirmary.
22. Prison for transients (Peresyl'naya tyurma) was on an elevation at the corner of Bazarnaya ulitsa and the highway leading to the lead factory.
23. Depot, railroad repair shops.
24. Firehouse, a one-story, red, fireproof building with slate roofing.
25. The railroad passenger station, located in the center of Vokzal'naya ulitsa between Zel'naya Balka and the city itself. It was a one-story building with two waiting rooms, a restaurant, and an agitpunkt. Chimkent was a station on the Turk-Sib line, located about 80 kilometers east-northeast of Arys (N42-26, E68-48), which was the western terminus of the Turk-Sib and a junction on the Moscow-Krasnovodsk railroad. Chimkent was also about 120 kilometers northeast of Tashkent (N41-20, E69-18). It was connected with the European USSR and Central Asia via Arys, and with Siberia and the Far East via Semipalatinsk (N50-28, E80-13), Barnaul (N53-20, E83-48), and Novosibirsk (N55-02, E82-53). The Turk-Sib was a single-track line, but had adequate siding facilities for heavy traffic. There were two passenger trains daily running toward Arys (Alma Ata to Tashkent, and Alma Ata to Moscow); there were also two trains daily running toward Alma Ata (N43-12, E76-52) (Tashkent to Alma Ata, and Moscow to Alma Ata). Local trains ran five or six times a day on a narrow-gauge line connecting with Lenger (N42-07, E69-52). At one time there had been a bus line running between the railroad station and the corner of Sovetskaya ulitsa and ulitsa Tolstogo; and the service was discontinued because of the lack of vehicles in operating condition.
26. Chemical-Pharmaceutical factory which produced santonin, santonic compounds, morphine, and other chemicals and drugs. It had the distinction of being the sole plant in the world producing genuine santonin; wild santonic medical plant varieties were picked in the nearby steppe.
27. Cottonseed oil processing plant, which produced lubricants for industrial and military uses, and edible oil for local markets.
28. Meat packing and canning plant, which processed beef and mutton. Production was shipped to markets in the European USSR. The canning division was largely designed for military use.
29. Packing plant, which served local markets.
30. Clothing factory, which produced military, railroad, factory trade school, and other uniforms.

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31. Mirror manufacturing plant, which serviced Central Asia markets.
32. Lime kiln and brick manufacturing plant, which served local markets.
33. Household equipment manufacturing plant, which served local markets.
34. Restaurant (Amerikanka) on Bazarnaya ulitsa; frequented by Russians and Ukrainians.
35. Kolkhoz House on Bazarnaya ulitsa, frequented by the Uzbeks.
36. Kolkhoz House near ulitsa Tolstogo, frequented by the Kazakhs.
37. Hotel on Sovetskaya Street. There were no single rooms; rates varied from five to ten rubles per day for a bed in the dormitory.
38. Technological Institute of the Silicate Industry i/n Molotov. It was a new branch of the Kharkov Institute, and had two facilities or subdivisions: (a) technological and (b) mining. The institute lacked laboratory facilities in the early stage of its existence. Teachers' Institute (2) and the Industrial Technical Institute (39) were located in this same three-story building.
39. Industrial Technical School, a three-story building. Teachers' Institute and the Technological Institute (38) were located in the same building.
40. Movie on Sovetskaya Street.
41. Movie on Bazarnaya Street
42. City Store.
43. Building where visitors in the city were assigned living space.
44. Zel'enny Bazaar.
45. Barakholka Bazaar.
46. Chernyshevskiy Bazaar.
47. "Large Mountain".
48. City Lake
49. Melon fields.

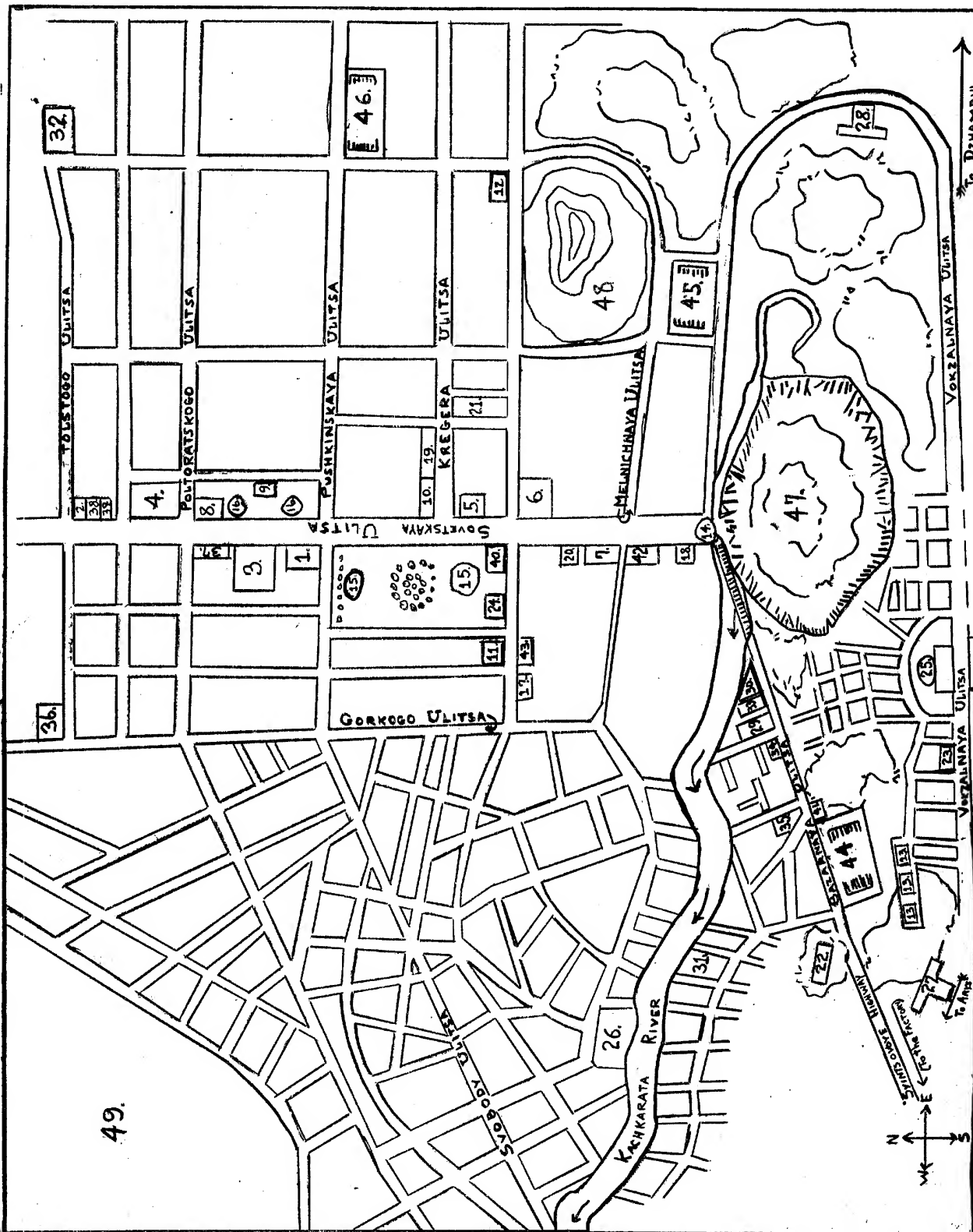
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Map of Chimgent



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1. [] Comment: No evidence can be produced to support this estimate.

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2. [] Comment: The Chechens were settled in the Sayram rayon, and have gradually infiltrated into Chirchik. It is expected that the Chechen population will continue to increase.

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3. [] Comment: The apparent contradiction between this statement and the preceding paragraph []

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4. [] Comment: [] presumably referring to the NKVD and NKGB, as the conversion to Ministries had not taken place []

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